

**I. AMENDMENTS**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

B<sup>1</sup> 1. (Twice amended) A method of reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen, the method comprising contacting the pathogen or cells susceptible to infection by the pathogen with an effective amount of a composition consisting essentially of a  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, wherein said  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin reduces the risk of transmission of the pathogen.

B<sup>2</sup> 9. (Twice amended) A method of reducing the risk of a subject becoming infected with a sexually transmitted pathogen, the method comprising contacting the pathogen or cells susceptible to infection by the pathogen in the subject with an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of a  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, wherein said  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin reduces the risk of the subject becoming infected with the sexually transmitted pathogen.

B<sup>3</sup> 23. (Twice amended) A method of reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted disease by a subject infected with a sexually transmitted pathogen, the method comprising contacting the pathogen or cells susceptible to infection by the pathogen with an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of a  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, wherein said  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin reduces the risk of transmission of the sexually transmitted disease by the subject.

B<sup>4</sup> 37. (Twice amended) A pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of a  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin and, optionally, an agent selected from a contraceptive, an agent for treating a sexually transmitted disease, a lubricant, and a combination thereof.